

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 CAB-09 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-11 FAA-00 CEQ-02

EPA-04 ACDA-19 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SCI-06 DRC-01 /164 W

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R 031735Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9307

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 04230

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, SENV, UK, FR

SUBJECT: CONCORDE

REF: LONDON 3484 NOTAL

1. IN INDUSTRY SECRETARY WEDGEWOOD BENN'S REPORT TO PARLIAMENT (REFTEL) CONCERNING ECONOMIC COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CONCORDE PROJECT, HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT IT NOT YET CERTAIN WHETHER CONCORDE NOISE LEVELS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE AT NEW YORK, TOKYO OR SYDNEY. THERE HAS SINCE BEEN A REPORT IN BRITISH PRESS WHICH STATES THAT AN AUSTRALIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE "HAS VIRTUALLY APPROVED" SST OPERATIONS IN AUSTRALIA. SIMILAR REPORTS REGARDING CONCORDE PROSPECTS IN U.S. HAVE ALSO APPEARED IN BRITISH PRESS.

2. AS WASHINGTON AGENCIES APPRECIATE, ISSUANCE OF NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING (NPRM) ON SST NOISE WILL LAY USG OPEN TO SEVERE CRITICISM IN UK AND FRANCE REGARDLESS OF HOW RULEMAKING PROCESS TURNS OUT, IF FOR NO OTHER
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REASON THAN BECAUSE OF CLIMATE OF UNCERTAINTY FOR CON-

CORDE THAT WILL BE CREATED UNTIL FINAL RULE IS ADOPTED AND BECAUSE OF FACT USG ACTING UNILATERALLY ON AIRCRAFT NOISE STANDARDS WHICH HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN HELD TO BE AN AREA IN WHICH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS NEGOTIATED MULTILATERALLY THROUGH ICAO HAS BEEN THE PREFERRED COURSE OF ACTION FOR MOST GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING USG. WE ASSUME THAT GOJ AND GOA WOULD ALSO BE SHARPLY CRITICIZED (THOUGH PROBABLY NOT AS SEVERELY AS US) IF EITHER TOOK ANY ACTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL GROUNDS THAT WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO CONCORDE OPERATIONS AT TOKYO OR SYDNEY.

3. IF DEPARTMENT HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO, WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO IDEA OF INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH GOJ AND GOA CONCERNING THEIR INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO CONCORDE. WE ARE NOT SUGGESTING A COORDINATED APPROACH SINCE TIMETABLES FOR ACTION LIKELY TO VARY AND CERTAINLY CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH EACH GOVERNMENT OPERATING WOULD DIFFER. BUT BECAUSE EACH GOVERNMENT PRESUMABLY WOULD LIKE TO AVOID UNDUE CRITICISM IF POSSIBLE, WE MIGHT FIND GOJ AND GOA WILLING TO BE GENERALLY HELPFUL IN DEALING WITH CONCORDE NOISE ISSUE. FOR EXAMPLE, IF WE FIND THAT OUR ISSUANCE OF NPRM ON SST NOISE WOULD PRECEDE UNILATERAL ACTION ON CONCORDE WHICH GOJ OR GOA MAY BE CONTEMPLATING, THEY MIGHT BE WILLING ISSUE STATEMENT CONCERNING INTENTIONS IN ME GENERAL TIMEFRAME AS OUR NPRM. GOJ AND/OR GOA STATEMENT WOULD DEFLECT SOME OF THE CRITICISM THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE DIRECTED EXCLUSIVELY AT USG. IT WOULD ALSO UNDERCUT ACCUSATIONS THAT WILL SURELY BE MADE THAT US ACTION MOTIVATED BY DESIRE TO KILL CONCORDE IN ORDER TO PROTECT U.S. AEROSPACE INTERESTS. AT SAME TIME, FROM GOJ AND GOA STANDPOINT, SUCH AN ADVANCE STATEMENT MIGHT BE REGARDED AS USEFUL BECAUSE IT WOULD BE LARGELY OVERSHADOWED BY US NPRM AND, BECAUSE GOJ AND GOA WILL HAVE MADE INTENTIONS CLEAR WELL IN ADVANCE, WHEN THEY TAKE ACTION LATER SOME OF POLITICAL SENSITIVITY WILL HAVE BEEN DISSIPATED.

4. COMMENTS FROM DEPARMENT AND INFO ADDRESSEES ON ABOVE SUGGESTION WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

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